Response of DOTS

1140. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 2 million people develop tuberculosis every year;

(b) the response to Directly Observed Treatment Strategy (DOTS) which was initiated in 1992;

(c) the problems that have slowed down the success of the scheme; and

(d) the further steps proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. It is estimated that approximately 2.2 million new cases of TB occur in the country every year.

(b) The response to directly observed treatment strategy (DOTS) had been highly encouraging. The Project Districts have reported a cure rate of more then 80% which means that 8 out of every 10 patients diagnosed and put on treatment under the revised strategy are succesfully treated.

(c) The Revised National TB Control Programme has expanded very fast in the country without compromising quality and its success has been satisfactory.

(d) Presently about 570 about million population is covered under revised strategy and it is envisaged to cover 850 million population under RNTCP by 2004 and the entire country by 2005.

Permission of DCGI for bio-equivalence of medicines

1141. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no permission from DCGI is required to conduct bio-equivalence on medicines for exports;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that it is applicable equally for both new drugs which have been permitted in the country and which are still not approved for marketing in the country; and